

infections, epizootic ulcerative syndrome and other infections such as white spot and soft shell symptoms. Some of the fish diseases prevalent in the country are given in the Statement attached.

Research on fish diseases has been systematically going on in the Fisheries Research Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and some of the Colleges of Fisheries under the State Agricultural Universities such as (i) Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai; (ii) Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar; (iii) Central Institute of Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore; (iv) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi; and (v) Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai.

Based on the clinical and field level trials, guidelines detailing preventive and therapeutic measures have been issued from time to time. Besides these research institutions also undertake systematic surveys for surveillance and monitoring of the fin and shell fish diseases.

(c) and (d) The research institutions referred to above are already carrying out research on fish diseases. These research activities would be continued and intensified in future.

Statement

Some of the Fish Diseases prevalent in the country

A. Fungal infections

1. Saprolegniasis

B. Bacterial diseases

2. Fin and tail rot
3. Ulcer disease
4. Dropsy
5. Eye disease

C. Protozoan diseases

6. Ichthyophthiriasis
7. Costiasis

D. Worm diseases

8. Gyrodactylosis
9. Diplostomiasis

E. Crustacean diseases

10. Argulosis
11. Lernaeasis

F. 12. Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS)

13. White spot disease
14. Soft shell syndrome

Crop Insurance Coverage

*287. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have submitted any proposal to formulate a scheme for providing a free insurance coverage to the agricultural crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Requests have been received from State Governments to modify the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance (CCIS) by enlarging the coverage to more crops and non-loanee farmers and reducing the unit area of implementation. No requests for providing free insurance coverage have, however, been received.

Infiltration through Rajouri and Poonch Districts

*288. SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan trained militants have changed their strategy to gain access into the Indian territory to continue their activities in Jammu & Kashmir and are now infiltrating through Rajouri and Poonch districts which were hitherto relatively peaceful; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of the reports and efforts by the Pak trained militants to use Rajouri and Poonch districts for infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir and to indulge in terrorist activities in these

areas. Measures are being taken on a continuous basis to ensure that such activities and designs can be effectively contained. The measures taken include increased vigilance on the border/LOC, strengthening of security arrangements in the hinterland including increased and intensified involvement of the local police as well as the people of the area through Village Defence Committees etc.

Export of Onion by NAFED

*289. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date and period for which the National Agriculture Federation (NAFED) suspended export of onion during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for suspending the export during the said period;

(c) whether the Government are aware that NAFED is not helping the onion growers in Maharashtra by purchasing onion at reasonable price during June-July, 1997 and the onion growers in Maharashtra have become restive due to falling of price and are resorting to agitation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in issuing suitable instructions to NAFED to help the onion growers in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, NAFED suspended export of onion only from 20.10.94 to 3.11.94 due to shortage of onion in the country for domestic consumption and to arrest consequent rise in the prices. It helped the onion prices to stabilise at reasonable levels.

(c) to (e) Onion from Maharashtra is being procured by NAFED both for domestic as well as export requirements. The quantity of onion procured in Maharashtra during June and July, 1997 is given below:—

Month	Quantity	Average purchase rate per qtl	Value
June, '97	499 MTs	Rs. 205.00	Rs. 10.27 lakhs
July, '97	1676 MTs	Rs. 179.00	Rs. 32.45 lakhs
	2175 MTs		Rs. 42.72 lakh

In addition, the Associate Shippers who are registered with NAFED for export of onions procured bulk of their export requirements from Maharashtra. These procurements have helped in stabilising the onion prices.

Excessive Use of Chemical and Fertilizers in Agriculture

*290. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizers being used in agriculture on large scale are proving highly dangerous for human health;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by the Government to check the excess use of fertilizers in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Adverse effects on human health arising from the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture are being still studied and so far no conclusion is arrived at. However, developed Nations are taking precautions in excessive use of high chemicals like urea etc.

(d) In general it cannot be said that the use of fertilizers in India is excessive. The consumption of fertiliser nutrients in India is about 75 kilograms per hectare against 243 kilograms in Egypt, 102 kilograms in Bangladesh, 351 kilograms in Japan and 259 kilograms per hectare in the Netherlands. However, the disproportionate use of high chemicals adversely affects the health.

[Translation]

New Public Distribution System in the States

*291. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the new Public Distribution System scheme recently;

(b) whether this system has been introduced in all the States;

(c) the names of States that have expressed their inability in implementing the new PDS scheme;

(d) the difficulties, if any, being faced by the Government in implementing this scheme;